Gelgrest, D.25

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OFFERED BY MR. GILCHREST OF MARYLAND

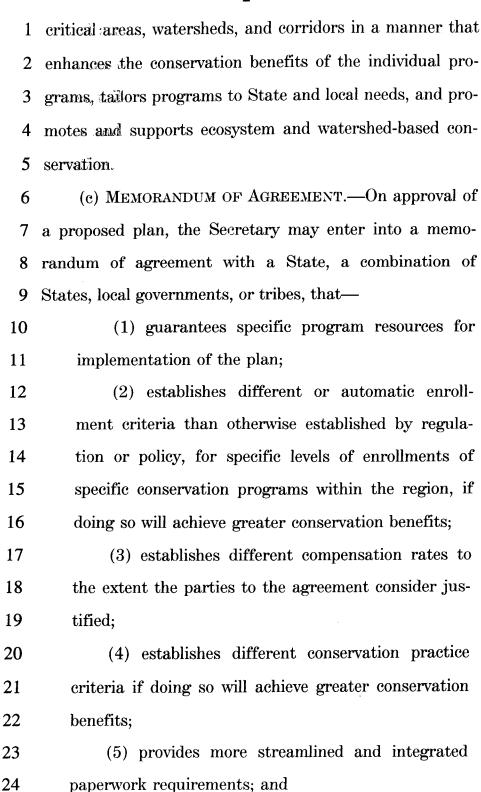
At the end of the bill, insert the following:

TITLE X—CONSERVATION CORRIDOR PROGRAM

3 SEC. 1001. CONSERVATION CORRIDOR PROGRAM.

- 4 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this title is to provide
- 5 for the establishment of a program that recognizes the le-
- 6 veraged benefit of an ecosystem-based application of the
- 7 Department of Agriculture conservation programs, ad-
- 8 dresses the increasing and extraordinary threats to agri-
- 9 culture in many areas of the United States, and recognizes
- 10 the importance of local and regional involvement in the
- 11 protection of economically and ecologically important
- 12 farmlands.
- 13 (b) Establishment.—The Secretary of Agriculture
- 14 (in this title referred to as the "Secretary") shall establish
- 15 a Conservation Corridor Program through which States,
- 16 local governments, tribes, and combinations of States may
- 17 submit, and the Secretary may approve, plans to integrate
- 18 agriculture and forestry conservation programs of the
- 19 United States Department of Agriculture with State, local,
- 20 tribal, and private efforts to address farm preservation,
- 21 water quality, wildlife, and other conservation needs in







11.14.

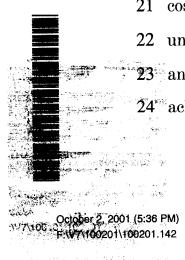


enhancement of natural resource corridors; and



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	1	(D) improved economic viability for agri-
	2	culture.
	3	(4) Staffing and marketing, considering both
	4	Federal and non-Federal resources, are sufficient to
	5	assure program success.
	6	(d) Approval and Implementation.—Within 90
	7	days after approval of a conservation plan, the Secretary
	8	shall begin to provide funds for the implementation of the
	9	plan.
	10	(e) Priority.—In carrying out this section, the Sec-
	11	retary shall give priority to multi-State or multi-tribal
	12	plans.
the garage	13	SEC. 1003. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.
	14	(a) Cost-Sharing.—As a further condition on the
	15	approval of a conservation plan submitted by a non-Fed-
	16	eral interest under section 1002, the Secretary shall re-
	17	quire the non-Federal interest to contribute at least 20
	17	quire the non-Federal interest to contribute at least 20 percent of the total cost of the Conservation Corridor Pro-
	17 18	
	17 18	percent of the total cost of the Conservation Corridor Pro-
	17 18 19	percent of the total cost of the Conservation Corridor Program.
	17 18 19 20	percent of the total cost of the Conservation Corridor Program. (b) Exception.—The Secretary may reduce the
	17 18 19 20 21 22	percent of the total cost of the Conservation Corridor Program. (b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may reduce the cost-share requirement in the case of a specific activity



- 1 (c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall require
- 2 that non-Federal interests contributing financial resources
- 3 for the Conservation Corridor Program shall implement
- 4 streamlined paperwork requirements and other procedures
- 5 to allow for integration with the Federal programs for par-
- 6 ticipants in the program.
- 7 (d) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall
- 8 direct funds on a priority basis to the Conservation Cor-
- 9 ridor Program and to projects in areas identified by the
- 10 plan.
- 11 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—A State may submit multiple
- 12 plans, but the Secretary shall assure opportunity for sub-
- 13 mission by each State. Acreage committed as part of ap-
- 14 proved Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs
- 15 shall be considered acreage of the Conservation Reserve
- 16 Program committed to a Conservation Enhancement Pro-
- 17 gram.

Amend the table of contents accordingly.

